

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

*70 Years*  
*"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"*

Phone: (651) 602-7900  
FAX: (651) 602-7914

---

**Transmitted via Email**

November 10, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 170-6-1

SUBJECT: CGI – GIS – SOIL DATA VIEWER

Purpose. To announce the release of Soil Data Viewer, Version 5.0, and to identify persons responsible for the installation of the software and downloading of the updated soils data and database template.

Expiration Date. October 31, 2006.

This bulletin announces the release of the latest version of the Soil Data Viewer (SDV), a tool for viewing digital soils information. SDV is built as an extension to ArcMap, but can also be used as a standalone application. Using SDV, GIS users can create soil-based thematic maps and non-GIS users can create tabular reports.

SDV 5.0 works with ArcGIS 8.3 and ArcGIS 9.0. SDV 5.0 is not currently certified for use with ArcGIS 9.1, and will not install if 9.1 is already installed on a computer. SDV requires an administrative installation and must be done by IT staff.

Further, SDV 5.0 does not work with the same tabular soil database(s) that were used in the previous Soil Data Viewer 4.1. A new set of tabular data from the Soil Data Mart must be downloaded. This download also includes the recently updated Minnesota SSURGO template database version 32. For more information, the SDV User Guide is available at [http://soildataviewer.nrcs.usda.gov/userguide/Soil\\_Data\\_View.htm](http://soildataviewer.nrcs.usda.gov/userguide/Soil_Data_View.htm).

**ACTION:**

1. Each Area Office will:
  - a. Determine which employees require the SDViewer
  - b. Develop a schedule for IT installation. Work with each Area's IT person to determine other software loads IT is already performing, to help determine timeframe for installation of the SDV.
2. Area GIS Specialists:
  - a. Download a new county tabular soils data set from the Soil Data Mart for each county in their Area.
  - b. Import the new downloaded tabular data into the empty template database.
  - c. Modify existing ArcMap templates. The State Toolkit Coordinator has tested the new Viewer tool and found that it can easily be added to a Toolbar while using Toolkit.

Questions on the information in this bulletin can be directed to Kim Steffen, [kim.steffen@mn.usda.gov](mailto:kim.steffen@mn.usda.gov), at (651) 602-7891, or Danielle Evans, [danielle.evans@mn.usda.gov](mailto:danielle.evans@mn.usda.gov) at (651-602-7895).

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: AE  
ITS